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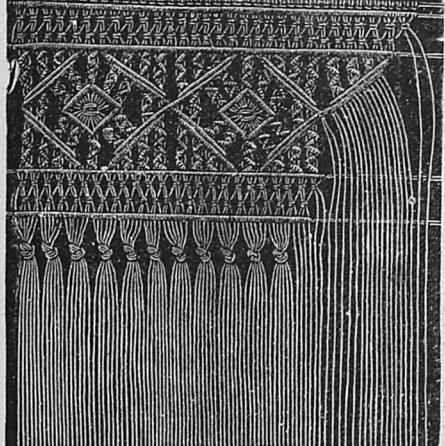
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OPINIONS OF REPRESENTATIVE DEALERS.

Decorations.—Messrs. NICOL, COWLISHAW & Co. have a very decided opinion about the adaptability, desirability and general value of a new chintz for wall decoration which they have recently introduced. It is of many patterns, Watteau designs figuring somewhat largely, and a very neat diaper pattern provided for those who prefer this simpler form of decoration. They also show a new French importation in the shape of tapestry for painting. It comes in the most delicate as well as the fashionable dark colors, and is admirably adapted to this new painting pastime. A Russian grenadine with handsome figures upon it of flowers and other appropriate subjects, is the very newest material with them, they say, for curtains. This, also, is in a variety of shades, and shows some beautiful changes in color when exposed to the gas or electric light.

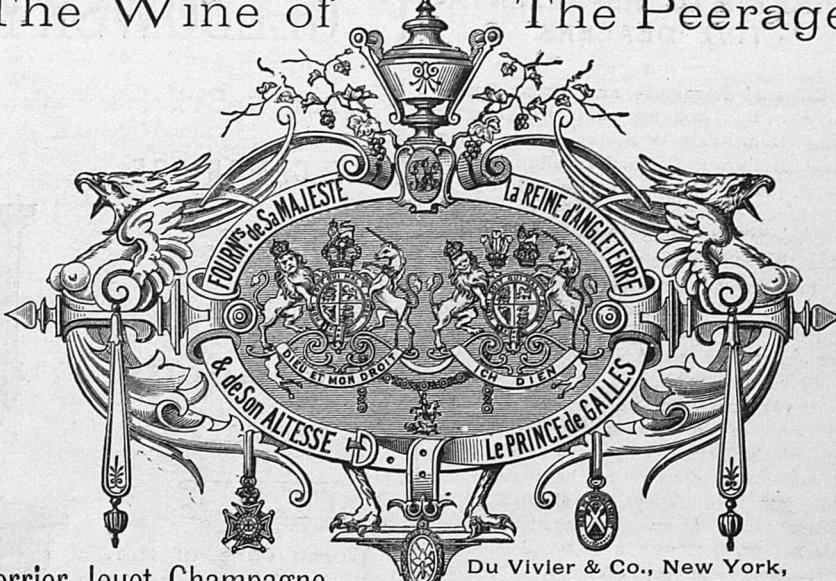
Decorations.—SCHASTY & Co. say they, too, have experienced the inroads of the Moors, and the Moresque styles are asked for by those who do and do not know its peculiarities. In fact this character of decoration may be said to be the prevailing one. Singular as it may seem, because Eastern rugs have been so persistently and widely written up, the skin rugs of bygone days are used in the available places of many of the fashionable houses. This appears to be somewhat of a return to early tastes, and in looking at some of the tiger and white bear furs one can hardly question the judgment of the style. In curtain hangings there has recently been a so-called improvement suggested, that of nailing or otherwise attaching the tapestry to a strip of wood which is nailed to the wall just below the ceiling.

Parlor Furniture.—M. & H. SHRENKEISEN tell us there is nothing very new in their line since our reported interview last month. They have a very comfortable upholstered rocking-chair that operates upon a stationary rocker, somewhat of the character of those we have been familiar with for some time, but having improvements that make it almost entirely new. Rugs are still largely used for covering furniture, and the style retains its favor as it does its bright colors. The demand for new designs in furniture frames is continuous and loud. There is always some curiosity-seeker who will select the oddest of patterns, and besides that class the average buyer prefers as much display for his outlay as he can get. Bay wood is used by this firm, to some extent, for inlaying panels or otherwise elaborating pieces of furniture. The manoa and toa wood are also employed for inlay works.

Upholsteries.—MARCOTTE & Co. say that the popularity of jute velours continues, and much of it is preferred with tinsel embroideries. Solid colors in all class of goods are asked for. Combinations of dark and light materials are made, deep borders, framing in the entire centre piece of the curtain, are very fine in effect. Raw silk, satin and the usual catalogue of kindred material, sells about the same as usual. In fact, Messrs. MARCOTTE say, the fashion seldom dictates what particular material shall be chosen; it is rather an arbiter of the colors, and for this season appears to have settled upon olive as the appropriate thing for its followers. As a general thing the olive, when selected, is darker in its tint than are most of the other popular shades. Turcomans in terra cotta are not infrequently sold, and the curtain or portiere, as it happens, has generally a border or dado of plush, with the embossed ornamentation that is now in such demand.

Upholstery Goods.—SCHNEIDER, STROHEIM & Co. say the upholstery goods for the approaching season are numerous, and some of the styles have a freshness and originality about them which is not bad. Raw silk tapestries are more in favor than any other one material, and, when decorated with golden seedings, are very rich. Some shown have green bronze or paterae stripes, others mustard color, and still others with the very bright copper shade in stripes and borders. The Persian designs are very popular, and are mostly of olive or a greenish drab ground, with white and half tint ornamentation upon them. This firm thinks that embossed figures will be most sought after, and by all odds the most desirable forms for upholstery goods. The colors they think will tend more than ever toward the subdued shades, those appearing as if rusted and worn with age, but if solid heavy colors are chosen they generally go to the extreme of Indian hues, and frequently to Indian patterns as well. They also say the Chinese, and particularly the Japanese, styles will be again in favor.

The Wine of The Peerage.



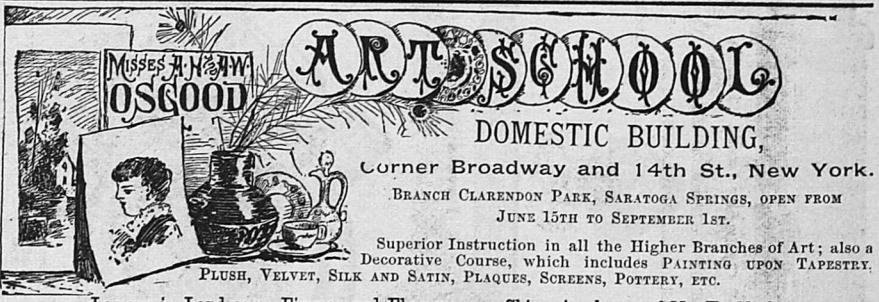
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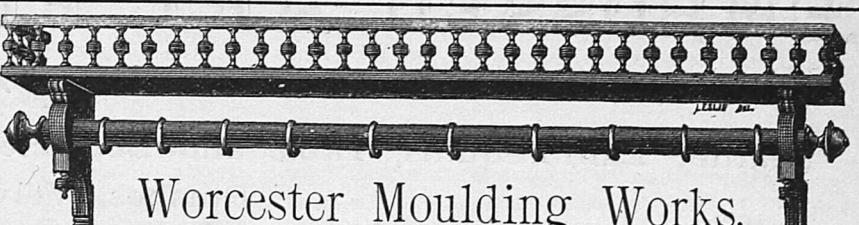
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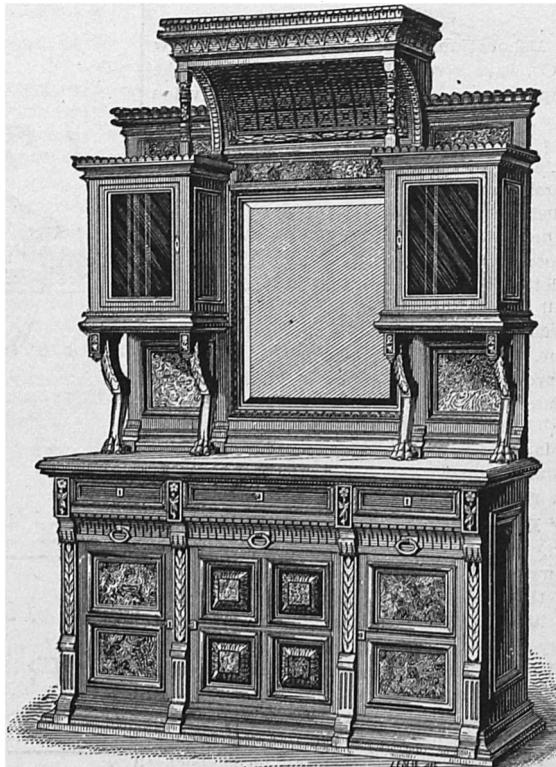
Colonial Furniture and Bric-a-Brac.—MR. W. R. LEONARD, who has recently opened show-rooms in Boston, makes an excellent display of Colonial furniture of the various periods, besides a rare collection of bric-a-brac. In speaking of the market for such goods, Mr. LEONARD's representative stated that the principal point was to suit the taste or particular hobby of the customer. If such was accomplished, the price stipulated was generally obtained. The firm were engaged in reproducing exact *fac similes* of old colonial work, and among other articles shewn the writer were a mantel, lounge and chairs of the style in vogue during the reign of the French empire; a lady's dressing table, with drawers on both ends, and made just high enough to allow a sitting position during the arrangement of the toilet; a bonnet cabinet, with a sectional cupboard for bonnets and the ever useful row of drawers beneath; a wine cabinet, with narrow deep drawers for the bottles and the necessary cupboard for glassware and other "fixings." In fact, the various articles all showed proof of utility as well as comfort and elegance. A striking example of national rotundity was seen in a Dutch chair, the framework of which formed a correct circle minus the arc, left out for the admission of the body. A Napoleon chair was not

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OPINIONS OF REPRESENTATIVE DEALERS.

unlike the latter in construction. Florentine desks, secretaries, swing mirrors, antique clocks, and, in fact, a complete variety of old and curious-shaped articles, convinced your reporter that the demand for the same is growing stronger every day.

Bedroom Furniture.—THE PHENIX FURNITURE COMPANY, have very little mahogany, and say their trade is now almost entirely in walnut, the difference in price is not excessive, and walnut seems to be preferred. They have introduced a novel shaped panel of French walnut veneer on their head boards. It is three cornered and has a deep bevel edge, which is neatly carved. The dressing case is decorated correspondingly, and further carvings surround the panels.

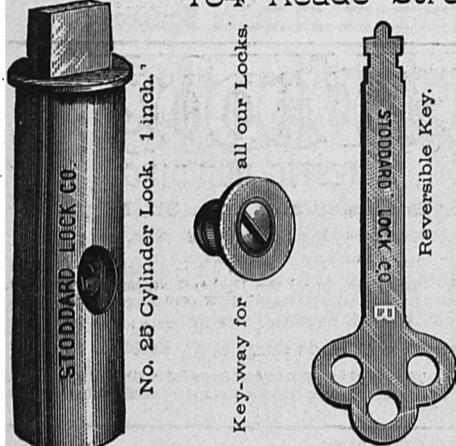
Carpets.—THE WORCESTER CARPET CO., state that the demand for Brussels has fully equalled that of last season. Good patterns and honest stock seems to them an excellent lever for moving the same. They have been paying particular attention to producing goods suitable to the growing artistic taste of the public. A pattern shown the writer, in crushed strawberry and old blue, upheld the latter statement. The Moresque effect is seen in a number of their patterns, and is growing steadily in popularity.

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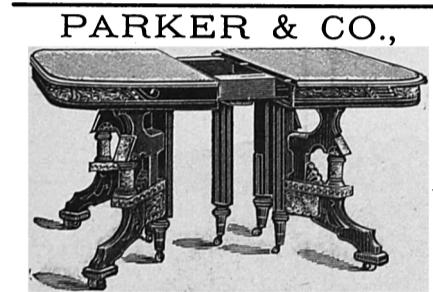
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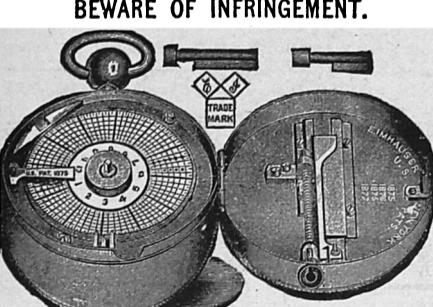
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OPINIONS OF REPRESENTATIVE DEALERS.

—*—

Furniture.—J. S. Paine & Co., Boston, through their manager, Mr. S. N. Small, in answer to the queries of our correspondent, replied as follows:

"The styles we make most of in ordered work run into the French, Italian and Dutch Renaissance, and, in fact, almost everything coming under the head of antique and colonial work. A great many pieces are combined from the features of two or more of the leading styles. Wood mantels, dining-room and hall furniture all show some reference to past epochs. The furniture coverings, embossed plashes, tapestries, velours, satin damasks and cashmeres are all used, while we are running more on silk plashes, striped tapestries and momie cloths with silk plush bands, for draperies and hangings. The colors vary a great deal, each of the leading shades finding a demand, but we notice a little tendency to olive, olive green, blues and browns. Mahogany, cherry and oak constitute the reigning woods. Oak, stained to give it an old antique look, is quite popular."

"Do you find ordered work to be on the increase?" was asked.

"Most assuredly. Those who can afford it want furniture different from that of their neighbor, and to do that requires special designs for each customer. I am constantly kept busy working up new ideas (Mr. Small is designer for the establishment), and would say that ordered work is increasing very fast. In sale work the chamber furniture is principally made in the Renaissance style, with low head boards, and in mahogany and cherry. Even in our folding beds are seen some of the features I have spoken of, and that article is fast finding a place in nice houses."

Bedroom Furniture.—NELSON, MATTER & Co., are using cherry and oak largely, walnut is popular with them, and mahogany sells fairly. They have several new, or rather noticeable designs. Jacobean is quite rich, and the Adams shows unmistakably the lines of that showy designer. The variety of Renaissance patterns would serve almost as an instructive class in these different epochs, Italian, French, Spanish and English. Canopied bedsteads and swell front cabinets are apparently very popular, from the number shown.

Coal Economizer.—MR. F. E. McALLISTER has introduced a novelty that it is hoped has some merit, for it suggests a saving that every householder is interested in. Paying gas bills and buying coal appears to demand more outlay than housekeepers think is proper, and they would no doubt gladly welcome any means of reducing this expenditure. If this powder of Mr. McAllisters is what he claims it to be, a power of saving one third in present waste of heat, it is certainly valuable. Its minor qualities of air purifier and gas consumer and numberless other virtues, are made subordinate to the one great recommendation of economy, and while it cannot be said there is any prevailing fashion in the seasons "Coal Economizer," yet the chances are that it will receive a welcome in the majority of homes so soon as its claims to utility are established.

A New Wall Ornamentation, lately imported from France, has made its appearance. It is in the form of a panel, from three and a half to four feet long, and attached to a brass rod on either end. The fabric is generally a velours ornamented with classic figures worked in various contrasting colors, and the panel is hung from the frieze in lieu of a picture. The goods reached here somewhat late in the season, but will, no doubt, be fully introduced before Spring. An inquiry at the leading upholstery and drapery houses will give further information.

Oriental Carpets themselves symbolize space and eternity. The pattern or "filling," done in the seven perfect colors, symbolizes fleeting, finite beauty. The Oriental pile-carpets of to-day are the same in make and design, with the knot and flower, as those made by the earliest Egyptians, Indians, Babylonians and Assyrians.

Brunswick Black, thinned down with turpentine until it has attained the right tone and color, will, if a little varnish is added—about one-twentieth of the bulk of the black and turps—prove a stain for imitating walnut or teak wood. There is no difficulty in getting the mixture to dry hard, and it will take a coat of varnish first class.—*Furniture Gazette*.

Thin Curtains are now made of a material known as Russian grenadine, with insertions and edgings of Cluny lace. Others of Saxony lace have all the appearance, at a little distance, of applique.

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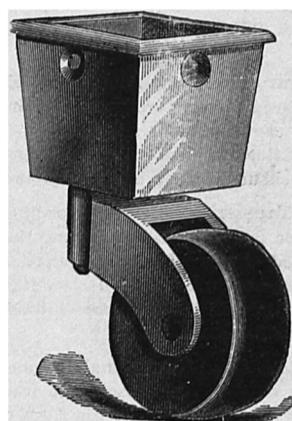


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